WHAT HENRY MILLER SAID AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

by
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with introductory notes by
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PREFATORY NOTE

Dr. Alfred Kinsey, concluding his lecture in Hollywood on the SEX PROBLEMS OF MODERN LIFE said "sex is here to stay"; and perhaps, the only course of action intelligent individuals can pursue in relationships that inevitably involve us in concern about problems which we usually tag as "sexual" in nature, is to begin understanding, if possible, this element of human being, common to us all, which we name "sex."

The following work by Dr. Bern Porter, "WHAT HENRY MILLER SAID AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT" is a positive, and dynamic utterance on this perennial problem which provides many clues, and directions like road signs on a public highway of Life, pointing towards sane, vital and more intelligent appreciation of the entire problem we term "SEX."

Perhaps many readers of Henry Miller know the part Dr. Bern Porter played in the early days of Mr. Miller's career—aiding in the publishing and distribution of his works in the U.S.A. at a time when he was all but destitute and unknown (in America).

This fact is corroborated by Mr. Miller's "Letter" from Hollywood just after he returned from abroad in 1941 when he had to ask for financial aid in order to keep alive while living in Beverly Glenn near Beverly Hills (the most wealthy community in the world, some believe.)

With this background, who is better prepared to write under the heading, "WHAT HENRY MILLER THINKS ABOUT SEX"? And this is about what the little essay endeavors to project in a totally new form of writing which I, for one welcome because it *suggests* more than it *says,* and leaves each one of us, as readers, free to construct or reconstruct the *forms* and *images* this outline refers to, and indicates only, but doesn't elaborate.

Perhaps the writing of the future will be of this nature, when it projects abstractions which each and every one of us may read for our own selves with ultimate understanding (or misunderstanding?) and we may enjoy, finally, digesting and assimilating the facts and ideas within our own intellectual organisms; but in our own terms, and with our own language. This is a totally new departure in scientific writing, I believe, from the old pedagogical attitude of the "teacher" who was only satisfied if the learner repeated verbatim, whatever had been verbally communicated—in speech or writing.

In one of Porter's earlier books, I'VE LEFT, he analyzes the necessity for combining science and art: "SCIART"* he calls this integration of two schools or attitudes taken towards Reality, and here we may have a very excellent example from his own pen, of what this method means in practice. Reading this, I think, will be

*The techniques employed here are actually Scicom and Scilit, forms arising from the union of science and communication, science and literature, evolved by experimentation and development 1949 through 1959 by Porter as a part of the total Sciart concept. B.P.

a good exercise for anyone who wishes to gain a deeper, broader and higher understanding—not only of what Miller says of "sex" but of equal significance, what the terms really mean, which we have used for the "copulative verb" (fornication, Eros, Love, Agape, mating, and the unmentionable four-letter word Americans often seem to prefer, as do many others, perhaps; and so, "WHAT HENRY MILLER SAID AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT" may be summed up in saying, "Like Nature, Miller and most other artists accepts the variations of Love—Eros, Sex, Fornication, and Agape—where finally, perhaps each *individual* must discover the right relationships of the real self, and of Society, and some "other person," wherever and whenever these unseen elements appear, which seems almost everywhere, and almost all of the time to maybe everybody of all sexes from birth to death!

JOHN G. MOORE

Pasadena, California
September, 1963

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Over the years from among all the words, the situations, the events, many will redescribe, many will remember this sequence, that scene, another episode; others will write, pay tribute, deride, criticize, imitate, be influenced, read, reread as others applaud, rewrite, fundicate, expand, elaborate, editorialize, comment, cross-file, index, catalogue and annotate. From the root comprising his initial billion words an overwhelming several billion more will multiply at the hands of countless others until in the resulting morass of verbiage the essential even simple, unsuspecting but all significant core will still remain undisturbed, even lost:

1. *Sex is everywhere.*

A. It is in the

air
bees
birds
city
country
earth
food
news
town
trees
streets
water
bed
songs
clothes
cars
factories;

B. And in

boys
husbands
males
man
females
girls
wives
woman

2. *Sex is*

clean
enjoyable
fun
good
healthy
innocent
pleasurable
pure
natural
normal
wholesome.

	boring		shameful
	damaging		sinful
	dangerous		stupid
	degrading		taboo
	dirty		unclean
	disgusting	*not*	undesirable
	dull		unethical
3. *And sex is not*	evil		unnatural
	filthy		wanton
	hazardous		wicked
	hostile		wrecking.
	illegal		
	immoral		
	monotonous		
	revolting,		

Contrary to the law, the church, the state, the tradition,

		argue	
		discuss	
		dream	
		give	
		have	
	can	indulge	
	does	partake	
one	must	perform	it.
	should	play	
	will	read	
		receive	
		share	
		sing	
		speak	
		think	
		write	

wish
desire
drive
power

More important the urge to fornicate (by whatever means) cannot be appeased, chastized, cheated, corrected, daunted, dazzled, deafened, debased, debilitated, disburdened, decontroled, decreased, decrepited, deflected, deformed, defrauded, degraded, denied, devoured, diffused, diminished, dimned, disappeared, disappointed, disapproved, disarticulated, disassociated, disbanded, discarded, discerpted, disciplined, discontinued, discounted, discouraged, discreted, discredited, disengaged, disentitled, disgorged, disguised, dishabituated, disjected, disjoined, dislodged, dismembered, dismissed, disobeyed, disobiliged, disordered, dispersed, displayed, dispirited, dissolved, dropped, eluded, emasculated, erased, expurgated, extenuated, extinguished, extirpated, extracted, fecundated, feigned, fixed, fooled, frustrated, guided, hoodwinked, ignored, improved, killed, overawed, placated, repressed, restricted, reversed, shattered, sublimated, substituted, transferred, tricked, twarted, untangled.

And all this the lawyer,
the judge,
the sheriff,
the jailer,
the censor,
the custom,
the minister,
the teacher,
the politician,
the doctor,
the commissioner,
the young,
especially
the young,
must
know.

And know it not so much from the parent, from the cleric, from the teacher, from the medic as from an expert impartial OUTSIDER.

And in absolute confirmation.

Henry Miller treats sex for its own sake; neither apologizes nor glorifies its expression.

BERN PORTER

Ashland, Maine
November, 1961